

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 9, 2005

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We were all pleased that at your State of the Union address you said you wanted to reach across the aisle to work with Democrats. That is why we are puzzled to read that your political operatives at the Republican National Committee and the National Republican Senatorial Committee are attacking Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid's character and his ability to work with others, before we have even begun legislative action.

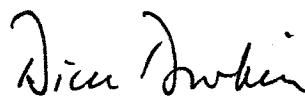
One of the reasons that Senator Reid has earned the respect of the diverse members of our Caucus is because he listens to people who have differing opinions. He is a consensus builder who has won widespread praise in Nevada and across the country for his ability to reach common-sense solutions. Of course, he won't agree with the Administration on every issue, but calling him names is pointless and silly. We feel that suggesting Democrats are simply obstructionists because they have honest policy disagreements with your Administration is dishonest.

Just yesterday your spokeswoman said, "The president has been reaching out to Republicans and Democrats alike, and he looks forward to continuing to do so." We have every intention, under Senator Reid's leadership, to work with you and our Republican counterparts on the important issues that face our country. But that is made very difficult when you say one thing while having your political operatives do something very different. It raises serious questions about credibility.

Harry Reid is an outstanding U.S. Senator, Democratic Leader, and patriotic American from the small town of Searchlight, Nevada, to become one of the strongest advocates Americans can have on their side. We urge you to keep to your word about being a uniter and publicly halt these counter-productive attacks so that we are able to work together in a bipartisan manner and debate issues on the merits.

Sincerely,





Rehli Stenew

Jim Johnson

Robert A. Nicholas

Maria Carbone

Tom Allen

Raymond
Murray

Ken Salazar

Jim Jeffords
Herbert

Patty Lee

Gay Riley

Patty Murray

Mark Boyer

Tom Langer

Ernst

Blanche L. Lincoln
32 Bide

Herb Kohl
Thanksgiving

Barbara Bush
Hillary Rodham Clinton

Barbara Bush
Chris Dodd

Elizabeth Dole
Jeffery
J. Edgar

Barbara Baker

Caldwell

Ann Wyder

Jack Reed
Nurel D. Fyfe

Byron G. Dorgan
Paul Sarbanes

Robert C. McHugh

John Stenger

Daniel X. Flake

Mark Dayton

Bill Nelson

Max Baucus

Barack Obama

Robert C. Byrd

John F. Kerry